

Dear Sir,

The present communication is in response to the Office Action mailed July 3, 2002 relating to the specified case;

Kindly enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5-7, 11, 13, 15 and 16 to read as shown below:

Add new claim 17 as shown.

A version of the amended claims showing the insertions and deletions is attached.

5. (once amended) Moulding element according to claim 1, comprising axial locking means (14) operatively interposed between said main section bar (2) and said attachment means (6).

6. (once amended) Moulding element according to claim 1, comprising a finish coating (3) associated to an outer side (2a) of the main section bar, said finish coating (3) being associated to the main section bar by means of injection moulding.

7. (once amended) Moulding element according to claim 1, comprising a flexible seal lip (4) extending longitudinally along substantially the entire development of the moulding element itself and presenting a base portion (4a) engaged on the main section bar.

11. (once amended) Moulding element according to claim 10, characterized in that the peripheral lip delimiting the attachment seat (11) defines at least an area (11a) for the insertion of fastening projections (9) and at least an area (11b) for blocking the fastening projections (9) in an axial direction of motion of the moulding element away from the body, the fastening projections (9) of the body comprising a head and a connecting stem between the head and the body, said head presenting a radial dimension greater than the radial dimension of the stem.

13. (once amended) Moulding element according to claim 1, characterized in that the continuous support element (7) presents a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) each delimited at least in one side of the continuous element (7) destined to face the body, by a peripheral lip defining an open line connected to the subsequent and to the preceding seat.

15. (once amended) Moulding element according to claim 14, characterized in that, in correspondence with the blocking area (11b), the peripheral lip presents a projecting portion (15) defining at least an undercut (16) set to act in opposition on a corresponding arresting portion of the head of the projection (9) to prevent separating motions between the moulding element (1) and the body (5) of the vehicle.

16. (once amended) Method for the manufacturing of a moulding element and for assembling the same to a motor vehicle body comprising the following phases:

- realizing a main section bar (2) of elongated conformation and provided with a longitudinal seat (8);

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realizing a continuous support element (7) presenting a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) positioned at a pre-set mutual distance;

- engaging the continuous support element (7) to the main section bar (2) prior to associating the moulding element (1) to the body (5) of a motor vehicle; and

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axially fastening the main section bar (2) and the support element (7) prior to associating the moulding element (1) to the body (5) of a motor vehicle, said engaging phase of the continuous support element (7) to the main section bar (2) being realized by sliding the continuous support element (7) through the longitudinal seat (8).

Please add the following new claim 17

17. Moulding element for motor vehicle bodies comprising:

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- a main section bar (2) of elongated conformation;

- attachment means (6) operatively associated with the main section bar (2) and destined to engage a corresponding securing area (5a) of the body (5) of a motor vehicle, said attachment means (6) including:

- a continuous support element (7) engaged to the main section bar (2), said support element (7) presenting a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) delimited at least in one side of the continuous element (7) destined to face the body (5), by a peripheral lip defining a closed line, the peripheral lip delimiting the attachment seat (11) defining at least a large area (11a) for the insertion of a fastening projection (9) and at least a small area (11b) for blocking the fastening projection (9) in an axial direction of motion of the moulding element away from the body, said attachment

seats (11) being located at a pre-set mutual distance suitable for engagement projections carrying by said securing area (5a); and

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- a longitudinal seat (8) on the main section bar (2) for receiving said continuous support element (7), the longitudinal seat (8) presenting in cross section a longitudinal opening (10) to allow access to said attachment seat (11) and undercuts (12) acting in opposition on a corresponding bearing portion (13) of the continuous support element (7).
